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RALPH OKERLUND  
TWENTY-FOURTH DISTRICT

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UTAH STATE SENATE

DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

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November 22, 2011

**Via Postal Delivery and Electronic Mail ([ddean@utah.gov](mailto:ddean@utah.gov))**

Ms. Dana Dean, P.E.,  
Associate Director Mining  
Division of Oil Gas and Mining  
1594 West North Temple  
Suite 1210  
PO Box 145801  
Salt Lake, City, UT 84114-5001

Re: Comments Red Leaf Resources Application for Large Mining Operations in Utah

Dear Ms. Dean,

I am writing in support of the application submitted by Red Leaf Resources for a Large Mining Operation Permit. As you know, I and many of my legislative colleagues are very supportive of the development of oil shale in Utah. The State energy policy, as adopted in the Utah Code, calls for the responsible development of this important resource, as does Governor Herbert's *10 Year Energy Plan*.

The commercialization of oil shale is critical to both the national security and the energy security of the United States. Most energy experts agree that demand for energy sources of all kinds will continue to increase, yet many energy-rich regions of the world remain in political turmoil. Given the vast oil shale reserves in Utah, Colorado and Wyoming, it is both possible and necessary to decrease dependence on foreign sources of oil though the emergence of the oil shale industry.

Oil shale development can also be a source of much needed employment in Utah. The Oil shale industry and its supporting industries have the potential to bring thousands of new jobs to regions of the state that truly need them. And like other extractive industries, oil shale jobs will be high paying and highly desirable.

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I commend Red Leaf Resources for diligently pursuing development of oil shale in Utah. I am familiar with Red Leaf's proprietary technology and appreciate the environmental and economic considerations given in the design and development process. With leases on Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands properties, the company is not only poised to deliver the benefits of new oil production but also to deliver significant revenues to Utah schools.

I also commend the Utah Division of Oil Gas and Mining (DOGM) for instituting a streamlined process for environmental review and evaluation. This process meets the complementary goals of state oversight of natural resource production and state support of extractive industries pursuing responsible development.

I urge you to expeditiously finalize the permit for Red Leaf Resources so that timely production of resources can be realized. And I thank you and your colleagues for your professionalism and hard work in behalf of the State of Utah.

Sincerely,

Ralph Okerlund  
Senator – District 24